

REMARKS

Specification Objection

The specification was objected to because of informalities. The above noted amendments to the specification are presented as suggested by the examiner and are believed to overcome the objection. Removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

A. U.S. Patent No. 4,679,264 and U.S. Patent No. 4,538,311

Claims 1-8, 11-13, 15-20, 23, 25, 23, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,679,264 to Mollura (hereinafter "Mollura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,538,311 to Hall et al (hereinafter "Hall"). Mollura discloses an Airbed Mattress Including a Regulated, Controllable Air Reservoir Therefor. Figs. 2 and 8 show airbed mattresses. The airbed mattress of Fig. 2 includes a bottom panel 31 to which are joined a plurality of pairs of straps 40-41, for holding a plurality of individually sealed air tubes 44-48. The airbed mattress of Fig. 8 includes a top panel 121, a bottom panel, and four side panels 120', 122, 124, and 123 joining the top panel 121 to the bottom panel. Mattress enclosure 120 includes a plurality of parallel, longitudinal, cell-separating panels 126, 127 130, 133, and 135 joining top panel 121 to the bottom panel of the mattress. Within the cells are air tubes 125, 128, 129, 132, 134, and 136.

Hall et al. teaches a Self-Sealing Puncturable Article. Figs. 3 and 4 show a two-component polyurethane sealing material for use in the manufacturing of waterbeds. Polyurethane is sprayed or brushed on to the internal surface of a top sheet of the envelope. Then a barrier layer 40 is placed on the layer of sealing material after it has at least partially cured. Then bottom and top sheets are secured together in the conventional fashion such as heat welding to form the mattress.

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 requires and the proposed combination fails to disclose "the core further including a plurality of self-sealing gas containers respectively disposed within the plurality of enclosures." The airbed mattress of Mollura includes a plurality of pairs of straps 40-41 for holding a plurality of individually sealed air tubes 44-48. Straps 40-41 are not enclosures and do not enclose air tubes 44-48. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 1 is in condition for allowance with respect to Mollura in view of Hall. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3-8 and 11-14

Claims 3-8 and 11-14 depend from claim 1. In that claim 1 is believed to be allowable, claims 3-8 and 11-14 are also believed to be allowable. More specifically, claim 5 requires that the body be formed from substantially non-stretchable fabric or substantially non-stretchable film. Claim 6 requires the body to be formed of woven nylon twill. Claim 13 requires siderails and minimum height requirements of the siderails. None of this subject matter is taught or suggested by the cited art. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 3-8 and 11-14 is respectfully requested.

3. Claim 15

Claim 15 requires and the proposed combination fails to disclose “a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining and each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure.” Individually sealed air tubes 44-48 are not affixed to adjacent air tubes 44-48 and straps 40-41 are not self-sealing. The proposed combination fails to teach a structure that can function as an enclosure and also be self-sealing. Applicant believes that claim 15 is in condition for allowance with respect to Mollura in view of Hall. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 16-20, 23, and 25-26

Claims 16-20, 23, and 25-26 depend from claim 15. In that claim 15 is believed to be allowable, claims 16-20, 23, and 25-26 are also believed to be allowable. More specifically, claim 18 requires the enclosures to be formed from substantially non-stretchable fabric or substantially non-stretchable film. Claim 19 requires the body to be formed of woven nylon twill. Claim 26 requires siderails and minimum height requirements of the siderails. None of this subject matter is taught or suggested by the cited art. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 16-20, 23, and 25-26 is respectfully requested.

5. Claim 27

Like claim 15, claim 27 requires “means for defining a core including a plurality of sealed enclosures containing a gas, each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure.” Therefore, the Applicant repeats that Mollura fails to disclose enclosures. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 27 is in condition for allowance with respect to Mollura in view of Hall. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

B. Mollura, Hall, and U.S. Patent No. 5,421,044

Claims 9-10, 14, 21, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollura in view of Hall, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,421,044 to Steensen (hereinafter "Steensen").

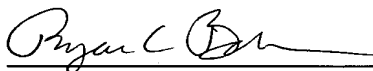
Claims 9-10, and 14 depend from claim 1 and claims 21, 22, and 24 depend from claim 15. In that claims 1 and 15 are each believed to be allowable, 9-10, 14, 21, 22, and 24 are also believed to be allowable. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 9-10, 14, 21, 22, and 24 is respectfully requested.

Final Remarks

It is specifically noted that claim 11 has been amended to correct an inadvertent error present when filed. Such an amendment does not change the scope of the claim as filed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course. If necessary, the Examiner is asked to call Applicants' attorney to address any outstanding issues to expedite the prosecution of this application for all parties.

If necessary, Applicants request that this Response be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this Response be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,



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